



COPS Fact Sheet

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COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Methamphetamine Initiative

Background

The use of methamphetamine, a central nervous system stimulant often referred to by its street names crank, speed, ice, or crystal, is expanding across the United States. Developed in clandestine laboratories often located in remote areas, methamphetamine is cheap and addictive. Methamphetamine spreads easily, due largely to easy access to the necessary precursor chemicals and simple preparation methods. Today, methamphetamine labs can be found almost anywhere – suburban settings, apartments, hotels, warehouses, and garages. The facilities used to produce meth can range in size from small mom-and-pop labs to superlabs. They pose serious health risks both to the citizens who live near them and the law enforcement professionals who seize them.

COPS Methamphetamine Grants

Since 1998, COPS has invested more than \$385 million nationwide to combat the spread of methamphetamine. In fiscal year 2005, COPS awarded nearly \$53 million to fight the escalating methamphetamine problem. This funding supports enforcement, training, and lab cleanup activities nationwide, but is concentrated in areas with the greatest need for assistance in combating methamphetamine production, distribution, and use. The COPS Office encourages agencies to focus on community policing approaches to methamphetamine reduction. COPS also works directly with state and local law enforcement agencies to craft innovative strategies, track and evaluate implementation, and disseminate results to other jurisdictions confronting similar

challenges. To combat methamphetamine in their communities, COPS encourages sites to develop partnerships with other agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, fire departments, local businesses, mental health organizations, child protection services, and other local law enforcement entities.

COPS funds are also used by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to provide training to state and local law enforcement professionals on clandestine lab enforcement operations including basic certification, officer safety, and tactical training. The DEA also uses COPS funding to improve the clandestine lab information gathering capabilities of the El Paso Intelligence Center, carry out regional information-sharing conferences, and assist state and local law enforcement in cleaning up methamphetamine lab sites. In FY 2005, the DEA received \$19.7 million in COPS funds for methamphetamine lab clean-up efforts.

Among other projects funded in fiscal year 2005, the COPS Office helped to support the 2nd Annual 2005 National Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Conference in Washington, D.C. This conference brought together professionals from diverse backgrounds to facilitate the discussion of important medical, psychosocial, scientific, legal, social service, and data collection topics concerning drug endangered children. The National DEC Alliance provides multi-disciplinary training for communities interested in starting or expanding DEC programs by providing referrals to experts, updated research on topics concerning drug endangered children, and best practice information. Over 300 attendees participated in this highly successful conference.

In addition, the COPS Office co-sponsored the 2005 South Carolina Community Methamphetamine Conference (SCCMC), which was held November 28 – December 1, 2005. This summit was the most comprehensive examination of the problems created by the use, distribution, and manufacture of methamphetamine in South Carolina. Participants were tasked with developing recommendations to combat the growing methamphetamine crisis in South Carolina, and the collective recommendations will be compiled by the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and documented in a comprehensive report. The Carolinas Regional Community Policing Institute (CRCPI), located in South Carolina, also received COPS funding to support the SCCMC.

Contact COPS

For more information on COPS Methamphetamine funding, please call the COPS Response Center at 800.421.6770, or visit COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.